

The SWORD of the LORD

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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Here Comes the Flag!

Here comes the flag,
Hail it!
Who dares to drag
Or trail it?
Give it hurrahs —
Three for the stars,
Three for the bars.
Uncover your head to it!
The soldiers who tread to it
Shout at the sight of it,
The justice and right of it,
The unsullied white of it,
The blue and the red of it,
And tyranny's dread of it!
Here comes The Flag!
Cheer it!
Valley and crag
Shall hear it.
Fathers shall bless it,
Children caress it,
All shall maintain it,
No one shall stain it.
Cheers for the sailors that fought on the wave for it,
Cheers for the soldiers that always were brave for it,
Tears for the men that went down to the grave for it.
Here comes The Flag!

— Arthur Macy

The Editor's Christmas Letter

My dear friend in Christ:

A merry Christmas to you in Jesus' name, and God bless you! I am a wanderer going up and down in the earth with the blessed gospel. Only occasionally can I see any of those I love; a quick hand-clasp here, and a few words, and the memory of a smile, and then on, not to see my friend again for months, or maybe years. And out of that there grows a hunger, a longing after friends, such as otherwise I would not know. I understand now why Paul, the evangelist and missionary, has in his letters such expressions of affection, oft repeated, and such endearments as "My dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved" (Phil. 4:1). Missing the daily contacts of a settled position, he knew the value of friendship and of brotherly fellowship in Christ. By the teaching of the Holy Spirit, he urged Christians, "Greet one another with a holy kiss" (Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12; I Thess. 5:26). The Holy Spirit had Paul say, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love" (Rom. 12:10).



JOHN R. RICE

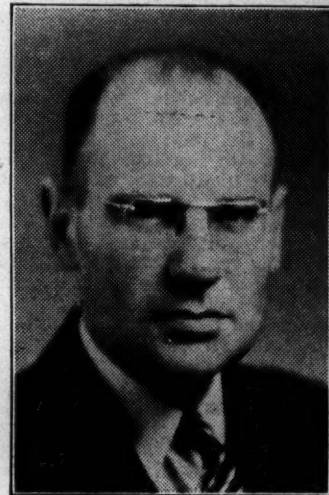
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Christmas from Another Viewpoint

By V. RAYMOND EDMAN, PH.D., LL.D.
President of Wheaton College

Of all the stories repeated down the ages, none is more precious than that of Christmas. Every association of the story, such as the season of the year, the spirit of the day, the circumstances of its celebration, adds to the delight we have in the story. To the believing heart, however, Christmas is not just a lovely old story of a Babe in a manger, of star and shepherds, but is the inspired account of the coming into the human family of God, the Son, THE WORD WHO BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US. (John 1:14), THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST BY GIVING HIS OWN LIFE FOR HIS PEOPLE. We are accustomed, however, to consider the story of Christmas from obvious angles, such as the story of the manger, the message of the shepherds, the guidance of the star, the adoration of the magi. Over the years Christmas has come to have for me a deeper and more real meaning since I have come to consider it also from the point of view of God the Father who "spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all." (Romans 8:32).

As we advance in years and experience, new angles of truth come to us, and dimly we can perceive their implications. I recall vividly



DR. V. R. EDMAN

when it was my delightful lot to carry for the first time the first lad who came into our home; and Deuteronomy 1:31 took on new meaning for me, where we read, "...the Lord thy God bare thee, as a man doth bare his son, in all the way that ye went." You and I have learned something of the implications contained in the statement of God's affection and concern for us in Psalms 103:13, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him."

Let us consider the Christmas story from the viewpoint of God the Father. Human illustrations at the best can only dimly portray to us God's love in giving His Son for us. That aspect of the Christmas story is emphasized in many portions of the scripture, as for examples in Romans 8:3: "...God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin" and I John 4:9: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

In these days of national stress and war, we are sending our sons into the service of our land and therein, to some extent at least, we have understanding of what it means to send one's son into possible danger and death. The illustration that comes closest to a portrayal of God's love in sending to us His only begotten Son is found in Genesis 22, where we have the account of Abraham's offering up his son. You will note a marked parallel in that Old Testament story and the New Testament account of God's delivering up his Son for us all.

Who of us can imagine the affection of old Abraham for Isaac, the son of promise? When the patriarch was more than three score and ten years of age, the Almighty

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The Holy City

Thirty men, red-eyed and disheveled, lined up before a judge of the San Francisco police court. It was the regular morning company of "Drunks and disorderlies." Some were old and hardened, others hung their heads in shame. Just as the momentary disorder attending the bringing in of the prisoners quieted down, a strange thing happened. A strong, clear voice from below began singing:

"Last night I lay a-sleeping,
There came a dream so fair."
Last night! It had been for them all a nightmare or a drunken stupor. The song was such a contrast to the horrible fact that no one could fail of a sudden shock at the thought the song suggested. "I stood in old Jerusalem,
Beside the Temple there,"
the song went on. The judge had paused. He made a quiet inquiry. A former member of a famous opera company known all over the country, was awaiting trial for forgery. It was he who was singing in his cell.

Meantime the song went on, and every man in the line showed emotion. One or two dropped on their knees; one boy at the end of the line, after a desperate effort at self control, leaned against the wall buried his face against his folded arms, and sobbed, "Oh, mother, mother!"

The sobs, cutting to the very heart the men who heard, and the song, still welling its way through the court room, blended in the hush.

At length one man protested, "Judge," said he, "have we got to submit to this? We're here to take our punishment, but this—" He, too, began to sob.

It was impossible to proceed with

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America Gets Back Her Scrap Iron

Nations, Like Individuals, Reap What They Sow; U. S. Now Getting What We Have Deserved; Japan Agent of God's Punishment

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

How wicked the Japanese are! We sold them millions of pounds of scrap iron, with which to make bombs and guns and ammunition and tanks and warships; but we had a clear understanding that they were to kill helpless Chinese with them. And now, after murdering something over a million Chinese, mostly innocent non-combatants, women and children who could not help themselves nor fight back, Japan has now begun to kill Americans with our own scrap iron! How wicked, how sinful are the Japanese, to kill armed American soldiers and sailors, instead of killing helpless Chinese, as the understanding was when we sold them the scrap iron, along with the airplanes, the oil and some of the bombs to do it with!

Certainly we must win this war against Japan, Germany and Italy. Every Christian must be a Christian patriot for God and country. I believe we should back up our government in the war with our earnest efforts, our money, our toil, our prayers, and if necessary, with our lives. The decadent pacifism of the Modernist, of the pink professors, is not the Christian attitude of Bible Christians. Defense of home and country, protection of the weak, safeguarding our liberties from the horrible slavery of Hitlerism, are Christian duties. But we are late in beginning, and America must now suffer for our Godless indifference to the oppres-

sion of others, our sinful isolationism, our crazy greed for our own wealth at the expense of the suffering of millions of the innocent, the helpless and the poor.

America is now united, thank God, and we people are agreed in our war effort. And may God grant that it may be as President Roosevelt said; that never again will America think she can go her way isolated from the rest of humanity, ignoring what sinful and wicked oppression and slavery goes on by assassins and bandits as Hitler and Mussolini and the Japanese war lords. But now it is only our self interest that unites us, I fear, not godly principle; and as God's prophets we preachers must warn our people that we have all brought the ruin, death and waste and suffering on us all by our sins.

How America Sowed to the Wind

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God"

says Romans 13:1. And the same passage continues saying that the ruler or the government "is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (verse 4). So governments are of God, they should put down and avenge wickedness, and Christians are to be good citizens by being subject to them. And God uses governments to do His will,

many, many times. We people in the United States, through our government, are accountable to God for putting down bloodthirsty tyrants when the matter is subject to our control. We should have acted for international righteousness and peace long ago. It was clearly in our power to stop Japanese aggression long ago, with little cost, and perhaps with no bloodshed. We did not do it. In fact we hardly cared. What did we care about the rights of poor heathen people in Manchuria, or in Korea where there are a large proportion of Christians, or in China? Instead of stopping aggression, we aided it. We sold Japan iron, oil, airplanes; even some bombs dropped in China were made in America, says Mr. Shepherd, confidential adviser to General Chiang Kai Shek of China. And we sold all this material with the clear knowledge that it was to be used against China, continued selling it during the slaughter, did it most of the time with the consent and help of our government, so the Japanese would not jump on us. We even, for six months, closed the Burma road to China, cooperating with Britain. And then we even furnished the Japs with the money to buy our war materials, getting for it in return, silk for our ladies' stockings! So our children had toys "made in Japan," our ladies covered their legs as little

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America Gets Back Her Scrap Iron!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

as possible with skirts so the sheer silk stockings would show, our junk dealers, factories and oil companies got the money which helped lift America out of the depression, and everybody was happy—that is, on this side of the Pacific.

Of course, murder of Chinese was going on, with our ammunition, by the hundreds of thousands, Chinese girls were being raped, thousands of them, missionaries were being run out of China and Japan, thousands of Koreans, Christians, were being killed or imprisoned because they would not bow before the idolatrous Shinto shrines in worship of the Japanese Emperor. An American has just returned and is now in Wheaton, who had been jailed six months recently by the Japanese for refusing to bow at a Shinto shrine. But Modernists from America said the Shinto worship was not so bad, and encouraged the Koreans to submit and worship. And we were dwelling in luxury. It was not our war, we said, to fight; evidently we believed it was only ours to make money out of. But an angry God who hates sin, and who loves the poor and hears the cry of the oppressed, will see that we reap what we have sowed. So now America gets back her scrap iron! What happened to Czechoslovakia, to Poland, to Belgium, to Holland, to Ethiopia, to Norway, to France, to Greece, to Albania, to China, to Indo-China, to Thailand, was none of our business. "Let them settle their own war," we said. "We are safe; they can't cross the Atlantic Ocean, because they can't even cross the English channel," we said. So now God has allowed it to become our war. It did not matter about the murder of millions of others, but how wicked Japan is, we think, when she uses our scrap iron to kill American boys! The long war against China was never declared; it was as unprovoked as the attack on Hawaii and that on Manila, and as deceitful. But we had little indignation against that, and verily helped it. But how deceitful of the Japs to attack America with weapons we furnished her to kill Chinese with!

Japan marched into Manchuria in 1931. England and America could have stopped her, and talked about it, but did not. Public opinion in America would not support it. If the League of Nations, led by England, France, and the U. S. had stopped that aggression, the world wide war now on could never have started.

Italy savagely overran Ethiopia. Again the League could have stopped it, but America would not help. There was a vote on economic sanctions against Italy, but public opinion of rich, proud America ("Christian America," some people call her) did not care about African tribesmen trying with spears to protect their homes against bombing planes. Mussolini's son was feted in America, and we let the slaughter go on.

Thus encouraged, Hitler began his rise, occupied Alsace-Lorraine, then demanded Sudetanland, took Czechoslovakia; England and France agreed at Munich. America said it was not our trouble, and it couldn't reach here. France and England in desperation entered the war when Poland was attacked, but it was too late to soon stop it. And for long years yet America said we were neutral. It was the other people who were getting hurt, we felt we were safe three thousand miles away, our factories were very busy, and with a "holier than thou" attitude we looked complacently on. When the president

led in the Lend-Lease Act the majority agreed that in self-defense we must help furnish England arms, but Lindberg kept Hitler's medal, said we had as well be content to let Hitler rule Europe and make peace with him, said it was the Jews who wanted us to go to war anyway, and was cheered by many thousands wherever he went. So now America has an awakening. America gets back her scrap iron!

Nations Reap What They Sow: Are Punished for Their Sins

God has a hand in every war. For His own reasons he allows the suffering and death and ruin that come when wicked men bring on war. Obviously the government must punish criminals. The policeman is the agent of God as well as the agent of government. Armies are simply a national police force, and our navy and army and air force act as our police force, and as "the minister of God" in protecting America and punishing Japan. But God allowed Japan to bring on the war, and doubtless it was in punishment for our sins.

II Chronicles, chapter 36, tells how God sent Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon against Jerusalem, a heathen king against His own Judah, because of the sins of kings, priests, and people. They were warned,

"But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words and misused His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people till there was no remedy."

"Therefore He brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man or him that stooped for age; He gave them all into his hand" (II Chron. 36:16, 17).

So God does send the heathen armies against the people who know about Him, but go on in sin!

I Chronicles 5:25, 26 tells how God "stirred up the spirit of Pul, king of Assyria and the spirit of Tilgath-Pileser, king of Assyria" and how he carried away the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh into captivity because of their sins. And the same kind of thing is told in II Kings 21:12-15, in II Kings 24:1-4. And six times in the book of Judges we are told how God raised up heathen wicked nations and kings against His own people Israel because of their sins.

God does punish nations for their sins! God is using Japan to punish America for our sins.

How God Has Punished Russia

Russia is our ally against Germany, and we are glad that recently Russia has stopped the German hordes, is pursuing the retreating enemies, and is, we hope, on the way to a great victory. We are helping Russia with arms, and I believe it is not only best for our self-defence, but our duty to do so. Germany must be stopped, and I am glad for Russia to help stop Hitler. But we should not forget the sins of Godless, atheistic, Communist Russia under Stalin's rule. In an editorial *The Pathfinder* recently said:

"Can They Forget?"

"President Roosevelt has undertaken one of the toughest selling assignments in his career. The other day, when he essayed to point out at a press conference that the Russian constitution contained guarantees for freedom of religion, and endeavored to work up American sympathy for the Stalin despotism, Mr. Roosevelt took on a task that perhaps should not have been attempted.

"Can the American people be hoodwinked into the thought that now that Russia is the ally of the British in the European maelstrom of war, they're not so bad after all? Can the American people forget the purges that have swept every evidence of religion from Communist Russia? Can they forget the slaughter of priests and nuns?"

"Can they forget this list of wholesale butcheries, this roll call of death, charged to Stalin through semi-official agencies as Entente Internationale Anti-Communist from its Switzerland headquarters:

"50 Bishops
4,860 Priests
7,824 University professors
8,920 doctors
65,000 police officials
120,600 government officials
45,940 army and navy officials
360,000 soldiers
48,000 agricultural agents
892,000 laborers
9,600,000 peasants.

"What a ghastly army to stalk the plains of Russia in refutation of Mr. Roosevelt's thesis!—*Pathfinder*."

The *New York Times* recently said: "We are aiding Russia today, not because there is any moral choice between Hitler and Stalin, but because Nazi Germany is much stronger than Soviet Russia and incomparably the greater threat to ourselves." It added: "Stalin's invasion of Finland was as ruthless and unprovoked as any of Hitler's."

The American Federation of Labor, representing millions of American workers in its resolution recommended full and complete aid to Russia for the purpose of defeating Hitler. It added: "... the teachings and practice of Communism are just as dangerous to American institutions as in the past," and "a victory by Stalin over the other countries of Europe would be as dangerous to free institutions as a victory by Hitler."

For that murderous rage of the communists, God has allowed Russia to pay dearly. Russia made a treaty with Germany. Russia agreed to divide the spoils. Her attacks on Finland, her over-running of Latvia and Estonia were as wicked in principle as the more far reaching oppression of the Germans. I said, when Russia was invaded, that doubtless Russia would lose three and a half million men, and I think she probably has lost that many killed, with other millions wounded, and only God knows how many more will be slaughtered before the horrible war is ended. Russia is reaping what she sowed.

And we had better beware lest we are a party to Russia's communism and atheism. In a recent news dispatch the Associated Press gives us this solemn warning from the Dies Committee in Congress investigating subversive activity:

"Communism and Criminality" in C.I.O. Coalition, Says Dies

"Washington, Dec. 2 (AP).—Declaring the organization of the Congress of Industrial Organizations was 'marked by a coalition of communism and criminality,' Chairman Martin Dies (Dem. Tex.) of the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities told the House today he had police records of twenty C.I.O. officers arrested for offenses ranging from petty larceny to anarchy."

"Dies said he was submitting a cross section of the information his agents had uncovered 'and before the end of the year we will have similar records of almost 1,000 C.I.O. officials.'"

"'Communists and criminals have gravitated toward C.I.O. from its inception down to the present,' Dies charged during debate on pending bills aimed at strikes in defense industries. Dies said hundreds of men went from prison cells to C.I.O. union jobs after they had 'seen the government yield disgracefully at the time of the sit-down strikes.'"

If by our help to Russia we are led to tolerate her sin and take up the doctrines of the Communists, or allow them to multiply or influence our government, then the fierce wrath of God will be upon us, and we shall sin grievously, and grievously suffer for our sin! God will punish such sin with bloody war in America as He has in Russia.

Time for America to Repent!

America's sins have brought us the wrath of God. We are suffering for our sins. If we do not repent, our boys will die by hundreds of thousands, our cities will be ravaged with bombs, our territory taken, our people enslaved. Do not minimize the Japanese. They are fighting close to home, they have a greater navy than we can at once put in the western Pacific, they have their own air bases, they have thousands of fifth column Japanese in America, in Hawaii, in the Philippines. We must keep much of

The Greatest Thing in the World

COMMENTS ON FIRST CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 13

VERSES 1-3. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be

burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

The word "charity" throughout this chapter might be written "love." The old English word, as used here, meant unselfish brotherly love. Since then, the English word charity has come to mean gifts to the poor.

Verse 1 shows that in speaking for the Lord, love is the greatest thing in the world. Talent, oratory count for nothing unless the one who speaks, speaks with a loving heart. Preachers, Sunday School teachers and personal workers ought to know this. This is why many who have great preaching talent, with natural gifts and training, are not great soul winners. Jesus loves sinners and He loves His people, and a Christian who tries to speak for Jesus without the same attitude of heart and love, is no better than a brass horn. "Tongues of men and angels" may refer to a knowledge of all languages.

Verse 2 shows that even other spiritual gifts cannot take the place of love. If one understands prophecy, as Christians ought to, has a knowledge of the Bible, and even has great faith from God, faith to move mountains, yet those gifts are as nothing in serving the Lord, if one does not have fervent love for others.

However much we may do for people, God does not give any credit unless it is done from the motive of love (vs. 3). Love, in Christian service, is the greatest thing in the world. There is no reward for any kind of Christian service, except that done from love.

VERSES 4-7. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6. rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Here are some of the things that real Christian love will do. Christian character does not grow primarily as a sense of duty, but out of a loving heart. Love helps one to control his temper, to be kind, to be humble, to be unselfish, to be pure and truthful, to endure, and suffer many things for Jesus' sake. The first phrase in verse 8, "Charity never faileth" is a part of this passage and sums up what love does. How important it is that Christians love one another. If you have trouble developing the traits mentioned in these verses, then what you need is to really learn to love those about you, love Christians and love sinners. If you love like Christ did, you can forgive as He did, on the cross praying, "Father, forgive them." If you love (CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

In His Steps

or

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

By Charles M. Sheldon

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The Greatest Thing in the World

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

like He did, you can humble yourself as He humbled Himself, even to the cross.

WE WILL KNOW OUR LOVED ONES IN HEAVEN

Verses 8-13. "Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

'Love never faileth.' That means that our love for wife, for husband for friends will live on after the resurrection. When the prophecies are all fulfilled (vs. 8), when the differences in languages cease, and all have the same language (vs. 8), when our little human knowledge is swallowed up in perfect knowledge (vss. 8-10), still we will have love. Will we know each other in Heaven? Certainly we will. Verse 9 shows that now we only know in part, we can only foresee a part of the future. But verse 10 shows that limited knowledge now will be perfect knowledge then.

Verse 12 is a precious promise to those who have loved ones gone on before. Here we can see each other's faces, but not their hearts. We cannot judge people's motives, we only see their outward acts. We

hear what people say, but oftentimes we never know what they really mean. The mother never fully understands her child, the husband never fully knows his own wife here. Now we see through a glass darkly, but then we shall see face to face, that is, shall really see each other's soul. Now we only know in part, but then we shall know even as Christ knows us. Remember that this is given as part of the argument that love goes on after death and resurrection. Love never fails! Certainly, then according to verse 13, the greatest of these is love. Compare with this these Scriptures:

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." —John 13:34, 35.

"And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." —Matthew 22:39.

"He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." —John 2:9-11.

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.... We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." —1 John 3:11, 14, 15.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God,

and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." —1 John 4:7-12.

Much of First John is given to the theme of love.

BOOK REVIEW

Pastor J. C. Macaulay, of the Wheaton Bible church, Wheaton, Illinois, has recently had a book published, entitled *The Word Made Flesh*. It is a series of devotional studies in the gospel of John. Preaching to a congregation composed largely of professors in Wheaton College, and in Moody Bible Institute, the families of missionaries, and evangelists, along with many students from Wheaton College, Pastor Macaulay gave a series of messages on the gospel of John. These messages are here compacted into thirty-one devotional studies. They are brief, rich and sweet, easily readable. They are specially helpful, we should think, for ministers and teachers. A brief outline precedes each message. The thirty-one messages are well worth the price of \$1.00. Published by Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

APOSTOLIC ZEAL

O for the zeal of Wesley and Whitefield, the zeal of men who were always preaching or praying, men who seemed as if they knew no weariness, or shook it off as dust from their feet! Oh, to have the zeal of apostolic times again, when the very least among you should be ready to be martyrs for Christ, if need be; and when all of you should testify of Him, wherever you were called to go. Oh, for more zeal in the household, that you might seek more anxiously the conversion of your children; more zeal in the workshop, that you might communicate to your fellow-workmen the spirit which actuates and moves you. Oh, for more zeal in the Church, and Church-meetings, and prayer-meetings, that everything might be done with spirit. Above all, oh, for more zeal in the pulpit. Holy fire come down! We have the wood, we have the altar, we have the sacrifice, but we want the fire!

Have you not remarked how much a man may do who is clothed with zeal? Some of our brethren in the ministry, to whom we have listened, have stirred our passions, have made our blood boil after a sacred fashion, and yet their talents have been very few, and we have felt while they were speaking that they made better use of one talent than some have made of ten. Believe me, it is not the extent of your knowledge, though that is useful, it is not the extent of your talent or tact, though these have their place, it is your zeal—your zeal that shall perform God's work.

Shall your zeal relax? Will you draw back, will you lose your force, will you slacken in prayer, will you refuse to receive the blessing which awaits you? Will you take your heads from the crown when it is ready to descend? I pray you do not so. Let us be banded together as one man; let us contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints; let us pray with fervour, let us live in holiness, let us preach constantly, and preach with fire, and let us so live, that we may impress our age, and leave our footprints on the sands of time.

—C. H. Spurgeon

"How I do enjoy your precious paper. It is indeed food for the soul and I literally feast on it. I trust that the friends to whom I'm asking you to send it will be equally blessed...."

M. B.
Oakford, Illinois

Wheaton College



We are glad to have this week a fine article by Dr. V. R. Edman, president of Wheaton College.

Wheaton College is the outstanding institution of its kind in America, an independent, fundamental Christian college. Its standards of scholarship are high, with a faculty of fifty-two, representing forty-four graduate schools, and from sixteen evangelical denominations. The student body at present numbers over 1,100 students from all over America and from several foreign countries. Every teacher believes the Bible. A strong statement of faith covers the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, the deity of Christ, His substitutionary death, salvation by faith, the pre-millennial coming of Christ, etc. We are glad to introduce Wheaton College and Dr. Edman to any of our readers who may not know them. Those interested in attending this great Christian college, or in helping to support it may write to Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

The Soldier's Psalm

PSALM 91

1. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
3. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.
4. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
5. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
6. Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day.
7. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.
8. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
9. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;
10. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
11. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
12. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
13. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
14. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
15. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him.
16. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

"Words fail to express the wonderful help and inspiration your paper, *The Sword of the Lord*, has been and is to our family. I read every word in it. It is a real blessing to us...."

Mrs. A. S.
Smolan, Kansas.

Church Sends 'Sword' To Its Boys in Army

From Rev. Velbert Hayes, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Moweaqua, Illinois, comes the following letter:

"Inclosed please find check for \$10.25 for ten one-year subscriptions to your paper. Our church feels this is the best Christmas present we can send to the boys that are away in camp."

And then followed the names and addresses of the ten boys representing this church in the army camps of our country. One young man was in the Philippine Islands, hence extra 25 cents on one subscription.

We feel that many other churches would find that they could send no better present to the soldier boys in the army and navy and Marine corps that is specially Christian young men of the church, than to send a subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* to each one. They will get little enough of real preaching and Bible teaching, blessed help from the Word of God, in the army camps. Temptations are many, and often they are homesick and lonely. Why not strengthen your Christian young men by sending them *The Sword of the Lord*?

AND SO I LOVE —

In this day of anti-Semitism, it is refreshing to the spirit of a child of God to find a poem like the following by Martha Snell Nicholson:

When I was just a little child
I loved my mother so,
I liked to touch what she had touched,
And always tried to know
The things she loved the best
Of all
So I could love them, too.
I made a secret list of them,
Although she never knew.

And now that I am grown I love
My Heavenly Father so,
And like a little child again
I humbly seek to know
The things which are most dear
To Him,
So I may love them, too,
And thus draw closer to His heart;
And so I love—the Jew!
— From *Now*, weekly.

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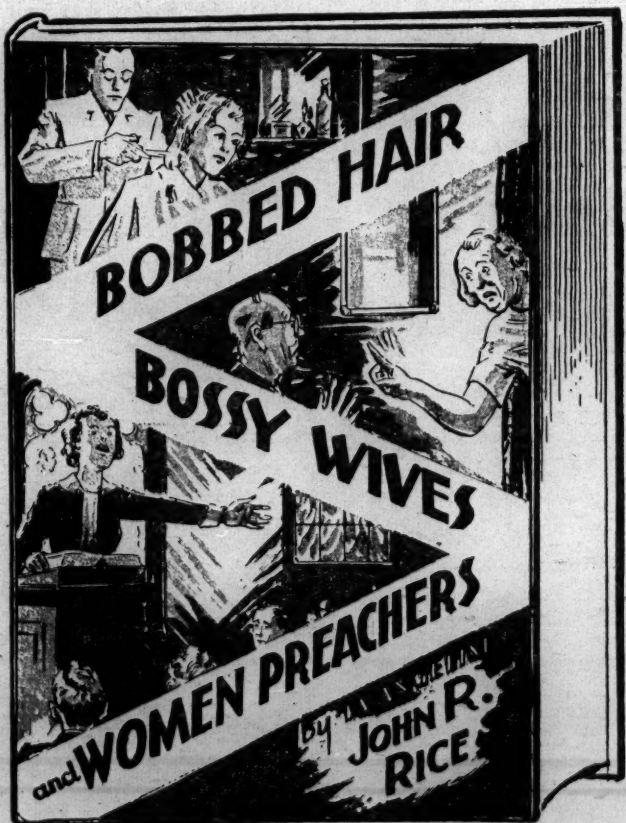
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America Gets Back Her Scrap Iron!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

that might have been American soldiers, I am told. But soldiers are just worse than the rest of America, except that they are uncontrolled youths away from home, youths never disciplined, never controlled by godly parents, never won to Christ and taught Christian character. And God's Word says, "Woe to him that giveth his neighbor drink" (Habakkuk 2:15). America needs to repent of her drunkenness, her official taking of bribes from the liquor business who are making drunkards, harlots and paupers!

3. *America needs to repent of her lawlessness, her unprincipled indifference toward the punishment of sin.* Our war is a punishment of that very sin. We had no conscience about stopping the sins and banditry of Mussolini or of Hitler, or of the Japanese war lords. And the reason was that we had no clear convictions about sin, no holy indignation, no determination to see that right was done, America has grown morally soft, decayed in principle. We do not whip our children to make them mind, nor demand and get their respect for their superiors, nor teach them to work to earn their way honestly. We do not mind much the lawlessness of sit-down strikes, nor violence and murder and gangsterism, particularly if it be in the name of the labor unions. We do not want the death penalty for murder, nor for rape nor for kidnapping, though the Bible clearly gives us God's command for it. We do not want sin punished. Most of our pulpits do not preach the wrath of God against sin. America, on the whole, has not heard about Hell and judgment. So we have become a people without strong principle, a mushy, fat, well-fed, luxury-loving people. We fear hardship, we hate discipline, and to many there is nothing worth fighting for but money, and nothing worth dying for! God help us, America needs to repent and learn to hate sin, to know it must be punished and brought to judgment. We need to learn to boldly advocate righteousness, and be willing to live or die that righteousness shall reign in our lives and nation, and wherever we are responsible to God.

A few weeks ago, before America was in the war, a Christian woman wrote me she disagreed with my article on "American Friends of Hitler," and deplored the idea that a Christian should ever fight about anything. In the same letter she asked prayer about her wayward son, who was grieving his parents by going on in sin. I feel that likely that attitude of never doing anything about sin, no judgment of sin, no punishment, no sense of responsibility, no respect for authority, was responsible for her son's waywardness. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." She may have felt she was too good a Christian, too loving a mother to punish her boy and make him obey, make him do right. But her thought, if that be what she thought, was folly and sin. It is not Christlike to ignore sin, to laugh it off, to pet wickedness. Christians who are too good to come out against Hitler or other such international bandits, or against sin anywhere, bring the curse of God on our country.

Since war is upon us, since our own people are killed, our country in immediate danger, I wonder what that woman thinks, who was so religious she did not want anyone to bother Hitler or other such international criminals? Her son is near draft age, I think; will she still think Christians ought not to do anything about such sin and

wickedness? Oh, America repent!

4. *American Christians need to repent of their lukewarmness, their half-heartedness.* Every church in America should plan for revival services soon. There should be a time of honest, plain, hard preaching against sin, a time of confession, of restitution, of rededication. There should be thousands of all-night prayer meetings; and in literally thousands of churches there ought to be days of fasting and prayer with humiliation and confession of our sins as individuals, as churches, as denominations, and as a nation. Individual Christians should start the family altar in their homes, should take up daily, earnest Bible reading, should set out to win souls, earnestly seeking to have the fullness of the Holy Spirit and soul-winning power. The American Christian's salt has about lost its savor. American Christians' light is under a bushel. May God send a revival, a genuine home-righting, life-changing, sin-killing revival in the hearts of Christians. Oh, for the flood tides of power upon the people of God! Church members need to repent!

5. *Unconverted sinners need to repent toward God and be saved.* America is a land of the gospel. On nearly every radio station the gospel message goes forth. Literally millions and millions of tracts are printed and scattered everywhere. Every town and village has its church steeples pointing toward God. Most of the millions of unconverted people have been followed by the prayers of Godly mothers or fathers, or can remember the plaintive haunting refrain of some invitation song, heard in their childhood. Most Americans have heard the gospel, and yet a vast majority of Americans have never known Christ as a personal Saviour. The average American has never repented of his sins, has never turned with a contrite heart to God for mercy and forgiveness, has never trusted in the atoning blood shed on Calvary by the Lord Jesus Christ to save poor sinners. The average American does not know what it means to be born again, though Jesus said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:7) and "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). The new heart, the new life which one has who comes to Christ as a lost sinner and depends upon Him for everlasting life is utterly unknown and unclaimed by the vast majority of Americans. All the Catholics, all the Protestants, all the adherents of Jewish synagogues, all the adherents of the churches are less than half the population. Including all the false pagan cults that deny the blood atonement, deny the deity of Christ, a literal Heaven and Hell, the need for a new birth—such cults as Christian Science, Spiritualism, Unity, along with all those that never teach salvation by simple faith in Christ, including the modernist, the rationalist, everybody in America that claims any form of Christianity—I say altogether they are less than half of the population in America. America is preponderantly a heathen land that does not know Christ. And multiplied thousands of those who are members of the churches have never been born again. No doubt there are millions who have a form of godliness but are utterly ignorant of the power that changes lives and hearts when you know Christ as a personal Saviour.

No doubt the curse of God on our country, the war and all the dangers we face are largely because of the great majority of people who do not know God, who never pray earnestly in Christ's name, who do not love the Lord Jesus, who will not have Him as Lord. Every lost sinner is a Christ-rejector, an alien from God, a child of wrath, following his father, the devil. And on such a nation as ours, composed principally of Christ-rejecting sinners, God must bring judgment if we do not repent!

These lost people are our loved ones, our kinspeople, our husbands, fathers, brothers, sisters, wives, sweethearts; our neighbors, our fellow workmen, our fellow citizens. Oh, God help us to win them! We cannot have the blessing of

Christmas From Another Viewpoint

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

made unto him the promise that his own son should be heir of his possessions and of God's covenant of grace. For a quarter of a century the promise remained unfulfilled, but Abraham "against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be... he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:18-21). When a hundred years of age, Abraham saw the fulfillment of God's promise. How that little bundle of life must have been wrapped in the heart strings of the old patriarch! With what interest Abraham must have watched the growth of that little lad! How he must have rejoiced to have heard his first words, to have seen his first steps, to have walked with that soft little hand in his! This was Isaac, the son of promise who had brought laughter into the heart of Sarah and Abraham.

How old the lad was when the test came to Abraham, we do not know; but it would appear that very likely he was in his middle teens. On that day there fell upon the ears of Abraham what might easily appear to be the hardest words ever heard by any human being, "Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of" (Genesis 22:2). May I say in passing that this experience is spoken of as a "temptation" or testing of Abraham (verse 1). Through Abraham God was to bring into the world in time after the flesh his own son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the most high was testing the human instrument to see if it would stand the hardest trial.

Abraham's obedience was instant. Early in the morning he arose, took two servants and

God on a nation of Christ rejectors.

If you who read this are an unconverted sinner, then I beg you today to seek Christ and be born! Today turn your heart from your sins. Confess to God your wickedness in heart. Ask Him for forgiveness and depend upon Him today to save you for Jesus' sake. To minimize your sin, to make excuses, to offer alibis, to hold on to your flimsy, pharisaical, self-righteousness will be the doom of your soul. And it may mean the utter ruin of America in a bloody holocaust of war! America must repent. Will you, dear sinner, repent today and turn to Christ? If so, then remember that "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). When you put your trust in Christ He forgives and saves, and then you are God's own child.

Let us prosecute this war with earnest thoroughness. Let us back up our government, our army and navy by buying defense bonds, by paying taxes cheerfully, by giving of our boys to the service; but above all, may God help us to meet this crisis by confession and forsaking of sin and turning to God. Should not every Christian citizen pray every day for the blessing of God upon our army and navy and air force? Let us pray that God will protect them, that God will give them boldness and success in their tasks, that God will destroy the aggressors or bring them to their knees and stop their wickedness. If thousands of Christians would pray every day for good news from the battle front, then America would soon be successful; and there would be a heart-turning to God throughout America and boundless blessings.

Meantime, let us have the tenderest hearts towards those minority groups, such as Quakers, Mennonites, and any others who for conscientious reasons cannot go to war. Most of them are sincere, loyal Americans, who will help keep home fires burning. Let there be no hate, no class wars, no attacks on Jews, on foreign groups loyal to America. America repent!

Isaac, his son, and with his own hand gave the wood for the sacrifice. When the animals had been saddled, the party left Beersheba for the long trek northward to Moriah. Who can understand the feelings of Abraham's heart on that long march of two days? He knew that every step and every moment brought him closer to the place and time where, in obedience to God, he must offer up his own son as a sacrifice. His heart was broken, but his obedience was unflinching, and his faith unmoved. On the third morning he saw the place afar off. He left the servants with the animals and with his own hand placed the wood of the sacrifice upon the shoulder of his son. In his own hand he took the fire and the knife. Together they ascended one of the mountains of Moriah, the father knowing what was to take place, and as best we can understand the story, the son, as yet, knew not what God had said. Like a sword-thrust came his innocent and boyish question, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?" (Verse 7). To this old Abraham could reply in steady tones that would not betray his broken heart, "My son, come. God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering." At length they arrived at the very place of which God had spoken. To the final extremity of placing his own son upon the altar of unhewn stones erected by father and son did Abraham bring himself. Only then did God stay his hand for he had seen the supreme test of human obedience. (Verses 12, 18).

Over against that story we see a divine counterpart. God in his great love toward rebellious mankind delivered up his Son for us all. When the song of the angels echoed and re-echoed in the ears of the shepherds on that first Christmas night, there was already set up in the heart of the Almighty a cruel cross. Father and son walked together during the days of our Lord's life on the earth. Day after day and year after year he drew closer to the inevitable cross where the price of human redemption was to be paid. Like Abraham of old, God, the Father, walked with His own Son the long way up Calvary's hillside, which is one of the mountains of Moriah. At that point the illustration and its counterpart diverge. Abraham's son was spared, but God spared not His own Son, Who in the darkness died of a broken heart for us.

Sir Harry Lauder gave us a significant little Christmas story. In the days of the first World War, there appeared in many American homes a service flag, whose stars or stars indicated that one or more sons had gone into the service of our nation. A father and his little son were walking home in the early evening and the little lad made comment upon the service flags he saw in one window and another. Presently he looked up into the western sky from which the daylight was fading and he saw the first star of the evening. Instinctively, he cried to his father, "Look, father, God also has a son in the service." "Yes, my son," replied the father, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The Holy City

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

the business of the court, yet the judge gave no order to stop the song. The police sergeant, after an effort to keep the men in line, stepped back and waited with the rest. The song moved on to its climax:

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Sing, for the night is o'er!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna for evermore!"

In an ecstasy of melody the last words rang out, and then there was silence.

The judge looked into the faces of the men before him. There was not one who was not touched by the song; not one in whom some better impulse was not stirred. He did not call the cases singly—a kind word of advice, and he dismissed them all. No man was fined or sentenced to the workhouse that morning. The song had done more good than punishment could possibly have accomplished.

—Author unknown

Christmas Letter

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

So to you, whom I cannot see often, I send this word of greeting and love at the holiday season.

Thank God for Christmas! It is an occasion to remember friends—to give—to visit—to feast together—to wish a blessing—to say, "I love you!" May all the peace of Christmas time be yours, dear friend. May the Christ of Bethlehem be with you! May His joy be your joy, His power your power, His compassion be yours, His labor be yours; all for a world of dying sinners, so dear to His heart! May you feel anew and again the blessedness of knowing you are saved—of knowing that you are loved—of seeing your dear ones happy. But most of all, I pray you may give yourself anew to Christ for His glorious business of winning souls. We know that a moral life is not the end for a Christian, that church work will not satisfy the heart of Christ, that providing for family and loved ones, is not enough; the heart of Christ will never be satisfied about the lost sheep for whom He died. The winning of souls is His aim, His desire, His passion! "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). May God make us soul winners! Let us give Christ, God's Christmas gift to sinners, to those about us.

Today we are in a world of war. There is trouble on every hand. Our boys will be in the army and navy and air force. We must expect suffering, and death, and sorrow. We will need to pray more, to love more, to forgive more, and suffer more. We need to love our country more. We need a new birth of patriotism, a new love of liberty, new care for the oppressed, a holy, hot indignation against sin, and yet a love for our enemies. But thank God in the midst of war we can have peace and the joy of Christ's presence, and the assurance of His protecting care. "Underneath are the everlasting arms." And may God help us to put first things first—and soul winning is first in God's sight.

I hope you will pray for me, dear friend. I have far more calls than I can accept, but how I do need the power of God! Pray that God will break my heart, that He will give me a spirit of prayer, that I will be so anointed with the Holy Ghost that my preaching will break the hearts of saints and sinners alike and there will be a great turning to God wherever I go. Oh, may God send a revival all over America! May God call America back to Himself! Please pray for *The Sword of the Lord*. Now with more than twelve thousand going out every week, we should have more souls saved, more Christians blessed, more preachers inspired and helped. May God give His wisdom and smile upon this means of getting out the gospel. Pray for the preachers whose sermons we print in *The Sword of the Lord*.

Please know that as the holiday season approached I thought of you with love. Mrs. Rice, my children, and the office workers join me in Christian love, and in wishing you the best blessings of God this Christmas and in all the New Year. For your health, your work, your family, your heart, we say, God bless you!

Your brother in Christ,

JOHN R. RICE

Psalm 126:6; Luke 11:13

(Intended for last week, but delayed on records shipped from Toronto. Yet we still feel these tender sentiments of love, and say, "God bless you," to our many, many friends. J.R.R.)

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